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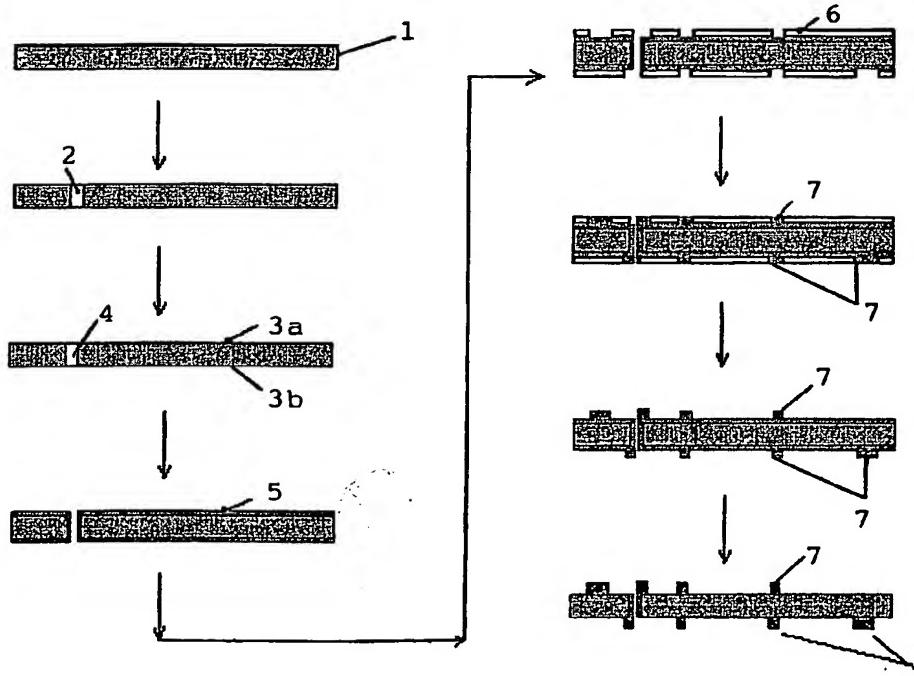
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[Continued on next page](75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BHANGALE,
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR ELECTROLESS METALISATION OF POLYMER SUBSTRATE



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(57) Abstract: A method of activating and metallising an aromatic polymer film including the steps of: treating a first surface of the film with a basic solution; applying to said first surface of the film an aqueous seeding solution comprising polymer-stabilised catalyst particles; and immersing the film in an electroless plating bath comprising ions of a desired metal so as to deposit a layer of said metal onto the first surface of said film.

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designation US
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designation US

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/SG03/00136

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt. Cl⁷: C23C 18/00, 18/16, 18/38, 18/42, 18/54; H05K 3/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Derwent: C23C 18/-, H05K 3/06; Keywords: catalyst+, palladium, particle+, basic+, hydroxide

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4517254 A (GRAPENTIN ET AL) 14 May 1985 Columns 1-2, 5	1-29
X	US 4770899 A (ZELLER) 13 September 1988 Whole document	1-29
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 95-317920/41, Class A85 L03 (A26) JP 07216553 A (SUMITOMO METAL MINING CO) 15 August 1995 Abstract	1-2, 10-13, 23, 27, 29

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0538006 A (ENTHONE-OMI) 21 April 1993 Whole document	1-29
A	EP 0221359 B (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION) 26 July 1989 Whole document	1-29
A	WO 9300456 A (OKABAYASHI) 7 January 1993 Whole document	1-29

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/SG03/00136

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member				
US	4517254	DE	3149919	FR	2518102	GB	2123854
		IT	1155419	JP	58108228		
US	4770899	EP	321514	WO	8809828		
JP	7216553	NONE					
EP	538006	CA	2078422	JP	5239660	US	5376248
EP	221359	JP	62247078	US	4640718		
WO	9300456	AU	22280/92	EP	590046	US	5342501
		EP	502120	US	5071517	WO	9107526

END OF ANNEX